

Societal Indicators

ASSESSING THE PEOPLE "FACTOR"

IN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH



Laurie Payne

Outline

- ✓ Indicator development
- ✓ Proposed indicators
- ✓ Indicator reports
- ✓ Next steps



Societal Indicators

- Measure human activities and their impact on ecosystem health
- Measure human response to ecosystem pressures

Societal Indicators Reported in 2002

- Solid Waste Generation
- Water Use
- Urban Density
- Energy Consumption



Societal Indicators Reported in 2002

- Place Based Stewardship Activities
- Green Planning Processes
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Mass Transit



Photo: Rob Hutchinson



Photo: Morris Richardson II/Detroit News

Societal Response

- Assess voluntary activities within society that invoke positive change in ecosystem health
- Represent society's commitment to ecosystem health
- 'Shared governance & responsible management'

Past Societal Response Work

- Started with 5 indicators in 1998
- Expanded to 53 Indicators
- Got feedback from:
 - Expert Panel
 - IJC Conference Workshop
 - First Nations
 - Online Survey
- Used feedback to develop current indicator suite

Indicator Selection Results

- 11 indicators proposed
- 4 categories:
 - Institutional
 - Community / Household
 - Industrial / Commercial
 - Cross-cutting

Household /Community

- Community Engagement in Great Lakes Protection and Decision Making
- Household Solid Waste Minimization
- Household stormwater recycling



Industrial / Commercial

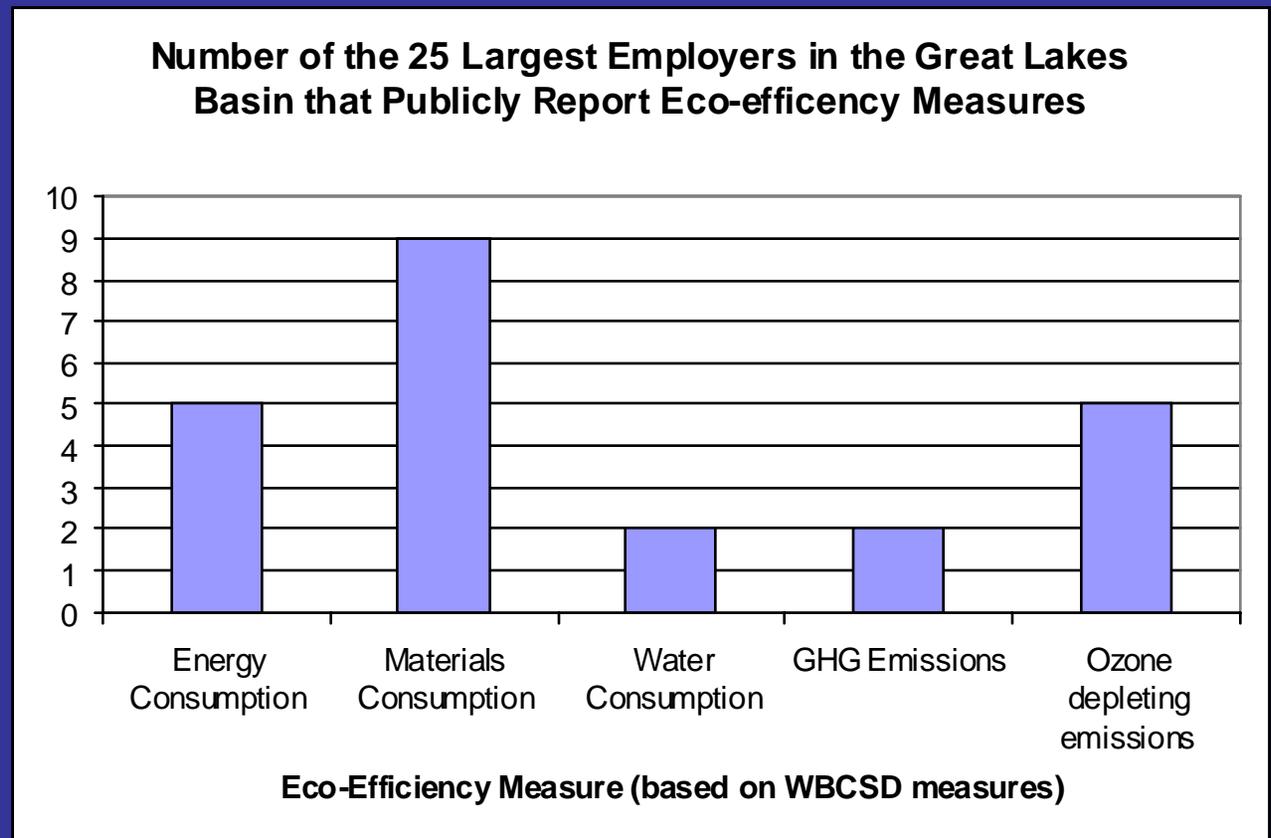
- Commercial / Industrial Environmental Management Systems (EMS)
- Commercial / Industrial Eco Efficiency



Pilot Report #1 –

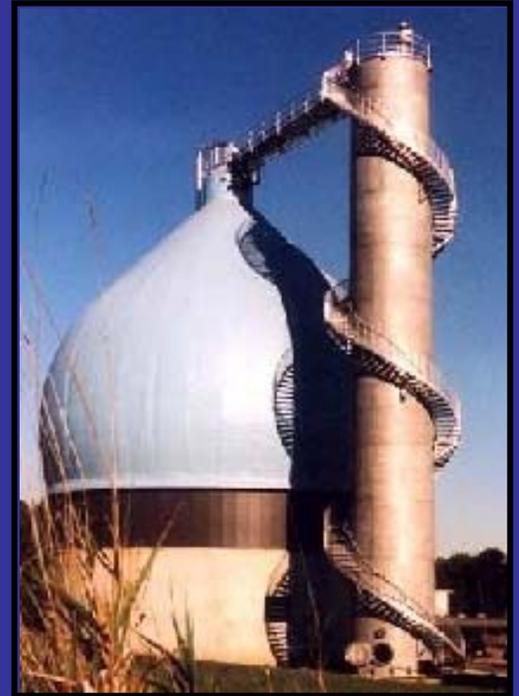
Industrial / Commercial Eco-efficiency

- 10/25 firms report on eco efficiency measures



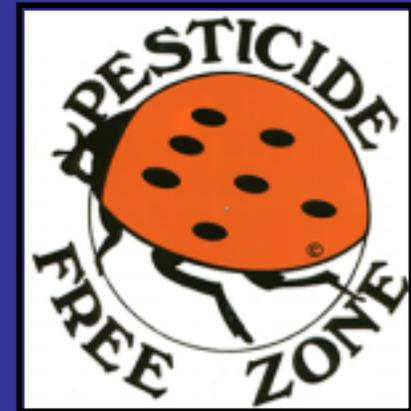
Institutional

- Wastewater treatment
- Taxes on energy/ CO_2
- Environmental education



Institutional

- Cosmetic pesticide control
- Financial resources allocated to Great Lakes Programs



Pilot Report #2 –

Cosmetic Pesticide Controls

- 46 municipalities have recently adopted pesticide control by laws/ordinances (Ontario & Quebec)
- Another 28 in the process of implementing by laws
- Quebec implementing province wide controls

Cross-cutting

- Vehicle use



Results

- Many indicators are needed to make an assessment of societal ecosystem pressures & responses
- Preliminary reports show that assessments can be done
- TUNE IN AT SOLEC 2004

Next Steps

- Evaluate proposed indicator suite (breakout session) and adopt an indicators set
- Continue researching and reporting on indicators
- Integrate results with other societal core group indicators
- Integrate results with geographic zone and cross-cutting indicators

Thank You

Please attend Societal Indicator
Workshops

Time: 12:45 & 3:15 pm

Room: 204, Cleveland
Convention Center

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